tion of the elevation was masonry, and that the wooden walls (*parietes*) were raised above it, as is very commonly the case in old timber houses still existing. I suspect that the Roman houses in this island were built just in the same manner, which will account for our finding the walls of Roman villas always nearly, if not quite, level, at a no very great altitude. Had they been the remains of higher walls of stone and brick broken down, the top would have been much more uneven. The greater portion of the Saxon houses were certainly of timber; in Alfric's colloquy, it is the carpenter or worker in wood (*se treo-wyrhta*) who builds houses; and the very word to express the operation of building, *timbrian*, *getimbrian*, signified literally to construct of timber. We observe in the above representation of a house, that none of the buildings have more than a ground floor, and this seems to have been a characteristic of the houses of all classes. The Saxon word *flór* is generally used in the early writers to represent the Latin *pavimentum*. The term upper floor occurs once or twice, but only I think in translating from foreign Latin writers. The only instance that occurs to my memory of an upper floor in an Anglo-Saxon house, is the story of Dunstan's council at Calne in 978, when, according to the 'Saxon Chronicle,' the *witan*, or council, fell from an upper floor (*of ane úp-flora*), while Dunstan himself avoided their fate by supporting himself on a beam (*uppon anum beame*). The buildings in the above picture are all roofed with tiles of different forms, evidently copied from the older Roman roof-tiles. Perhaps the flatness of these roofs is only to be considered as a proof of the draughtsman's ignorance of perspective. One of Alfric's homilies applies the epithet *steep* to a roof—*on ðam sticlan hrofe*.

The collective house had various names in Anglo-Saxon. It was called *hús*, a house, a general name for all residences great or small; it was called *heal*, or hall, because that was the most important part of the building—we still call gentlemen's seats halls; it was called *ham* as being the residence or home of its possessor and it was called *tún*, in regard of its inclosure

RAILWAY JOTTINGS.

It is reported that the Great Western Company contemplate raising by loan a sum of 94,000*l.* to finish the Great Western Docks, in order that Plymouth may become the packet station, by which the railway will be greatly benefited.——In the Court of Queen's Bench lately, a person, named Elam, obtained a verdict with 900*l.* damages against the North-Western Company, for compensation for the loss of some valuable property which had been delivered at an address different from that given by the plaintiff when he despatched the goods. Some dishonest persons had received it and escaped with it.——Vice-Chancellor Rolfe has appointed the first day in the ensuing term for delivering judgment on the appeal of Capper in the Direct Birmingham and Oxford Company, which, short of the decision of the House of Lords, will settle the great question of the liability of allottees. His Lordship intimates that his impression is in favour of the non-liability of allottees in unformed companies who have not paid any deposit or done any act after making application for shares. Should it be so decided this will release from the lists between 1,000 and 2,000 persons in the Direct Birmingham and Oxford, and consequently several thousand persons who were mere applicants for shares during the mania of 1845.——The amount of damage done by a fire at the station at Fives, near Lille, is estimated at 40,000f.——An Anthracite locomotive is said to have been successfully experimented with on the Philadelphia and Reading railway, U.S. The American *Miners' Journal* thus describes it:—"Dimfel's boiler has no inserted tubes in the water cylinder, but the outline of the boiler in a sort of figure of 7 shape, with free water-pipes connecting the back and top parts, and penetrating the main boiler-box, so that the ends are up in the water instead of in the fire. In this way the fire plays around and amongst these tubes or water-pipes, giving unusual circulation to the boiling water, and exposing no lapped parts to be unfurled and burned off by the intense heat. The boiler is equally applicable to marine engines."——On the London and North-Western, during the four days preceding Christmas-day, the number of parcels and packages sent "outward" was little short of 25,000, and "inward" of 10,000. By the Great Western there were 15,000 parcels outward, and 10,000 inward bound. By the Great Northern, "in and out," there were about 10,000, exclusive of goods trains, as was the case on the Eastern Counties, of corn, meat, &c., from the agricultural districts. The London and South-Western, South-Eastern, and Brighton had a larger complement than usual of Christmas traffic.

LEADEN CISTERNS.

Sir: I find that the bottoms of my leaden cisterns are spotted over with a whitish fungous substance, which is rapidly eating into the lead. I am told it arises from there being a quantity of calcareous matter held in suspension in the water. This is exceedingly annoying, as I have lately put up, at considerable expense, a very convenient bath and some house-maids' and other closets. My plumber recommends painting the cisterns when perfectly dry, but acknowledges he does not know what they should be painted with, as any of the paints in which lead is a basis will wash off after being kept a considerable time covered with water. May I request your advice as to what they should be painted with, or would any solution of gutta percha be more effectual?

A Builder.

*** Is our correspondent certain that the white spots are of a fungoid nature? Calcareous salts in water will not only stain but cover leaden cisterns altogether with a whitish mineral film, which will tend to preserve the lead in place of destroying it; and instead of being removed, therefore, ought to be allowed to remain, as preferable to any paint that could be laid on. Should the stains referred to really be of a different nature, and painting or other coating be considered advisable, we would recommend a perusal of what we have said on the subject of paints, cements, and mastics, in an article "On Doctoring Damp Room-walls" in our present number. Much of what is there said will be found to be useful to others than those interested in damp walls merely, and to our correspondent among the number. Should none of the paints or cements there described prove a satisfactory palliative or cure of the evil complained of, we would recommend the substitution of slate. Asphalte by itself, we may add, has been used for painting or smearing the interior of cisterns, but of its influence on the water in respect to taste and odour we cannot speak. For baths, closets, &c., taste or even odour might be of little consequence. See, however, as to odour in the article alluded to.

SCENERY AND PANORAMAS.

The Colosseum, Regent's-park.—The view of Paris, which has been exhibited here for some time past, has given place to a panorama of the Lake of Thun, taken from an eminence to the northward of the town. It is executed in *tempora* by the Messrs. Danson, and gives a truthful idea of the beautiful country it represents. It wants force in parts, but is nevertheless a fine work. We would suggest to the proprietors to continue their city series; Edinburgh, treated as London was, would make a very effective exhibition. The Colosseum should be visited by all our friends from the country when they come to London. When Mr. David Montague, the proprietor, applied recently for a licence, Mr. Wilks (one of the magistrates) said with justice, that the Colosseum was an ornament to the island on which they lived. It was one of those sights which persons coming even from the most remote parts of the civilized world visited and gazed at in astonishment. Whether, therefore, he considered the vast amount of capital which had been invested on this building, or the taste which had been displayed in its arrangement, or the reputation it had usually borne, or the high character of Mr. Montague, he could not but feel that it would be an act of injustice to refuse the privilege.

Burford's Panorama, Leicester-square.—Mr. Burford has painted, as a Christmas novelty, a view of the Lake and Town of Lucerne,—

"That sacred lake withdrawn among the hills,
Its depth of waters flanked as with a wall
Built by the giant race before the Flood."

It is exhibited in place of "Pompeii," and one grieves that the latter instructive picture should be doomed to be painted out. Mr. H. Selous has aided Mr. Burford in producing a charming picture. The *Hotel des Suisses* looks out of upright.

The Lyceum Theatre.—The crowds that flock to the Lyceum every night to see Mr. Planché's Christmas piece, *King Charming*, are already sufficiently large to render further recommendation unnecessary. It is a well-deserved success. Messrs. Beverley and Meadows have ably worked up to the author in the greater number of the scenes. The "Abode of the Fairy," an Alhambraish interior, with arches on crystal columns with jewelled capitals, and the last scene of the first act, (seen too transitorily) the Fan-Sea Islands, are exquisite pieces of painting; while in the last scene of all the artist and machinist have coalesced to produce an effect which we have never seen equalled.

The Haymarket Theatre.—The witty burlesque here ("The Second Calender") terminates with an interior view of the Exhibition building, which, if not quite so minutely correct as that we give to-day, is still effective. Our great artist, Macready, here, must be seen now by those who would see him at all.

The Princess's Theatre.—Here the pantomime ends with a well-painted view of the outside of the Exhibition Building, which looks all the better for having glass in the lowest story, as originally intended, instead of boarding, as now. One of the cleverest effects is the "Rising of the Sea." If the efforts of Messrs. Kean and Keeley at this theatre are receiving the reward they merit, they should endeavour to improve the plan of the dress-circle. The form now is such, that in two boxes on each side the stage cannot be seen.

HYDRAULIC MORTAR.

AS MADE AND USED AT THE DOCKS, LIVERPOOL, 1850.

Few engineers or architects who have visited Liverpool will have neglected to examine the docks, constructed under the direction of Mr. Hartley, and if they have noticed the character of the recent work, they will have observed that the river walls, entrances, and dock-walls are principally of rubble masonry. The strength of this work in a great measure depends upon the good quality of the mortar used. From inquiries we obtained the following particulars as to the mortar, which may be useful to some of our readers. The dock works at Birkenhead are constructed with similar mortar. In fact it has been made principally by men from the Liverpool works. The stone is obtained from Halkin mountain, near to Holywell, Flintshire, North Wales: it is shipped in the river Dee. Price of stone delivered upon the quay at Liverpool, per ton, 7s. 3d. When it is requisite to burn the stone quickly, coke is used, at per ton 16s. When not required quickly, coal is used, at per ton 8s. 6d. The stone can be burned quickly for as little money with coke as it can be burned slowly with coals. But it is very expensive to burn quickly with coals or slowly with coke. The proportion of coke is generally one bushel to six bushels of stone.

Cost of burning the Limestone.

Tons.	Cwt.	Per Ton.		£	s.	d.
4	10	of limestone, 7s. 3d. ..	..	£1	12	7½
—		labour on do. 1s. 6d. ..	..	0	6	9
1	10	of coke .. 11s. 0d. ..	..	0	16	6
				£2	15	10½

Produce: Lime, 3 tons, at 18s. 7½d. per ton £2 15 10½

Mortar from the mill costs, per cubic yard, from 9s. 6d. to 10s. 6d.

N.B. Various quantities of sand are used, from two to five, to one of lime by measure. Smiths' ashes, or furnace ashes, are used to mix with the lime and with much advantage.

The sand is obtained out of the river Mersey, generally from the great banks above the town.

The lime-kilns stand close to the mortar-shed: the lime is drawn fresh from the kiln mouth, is slaked, and thrown at once into the

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